



NEWS RELEASE

901 N. Stuart St., 10th Floor, Arlington, VA 22203

Office of External Affairs
Telephone: 703-306-4319
Facsimile: 703-306-4365
www.iaf.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No.: 010907-1

Date: Jan. 9, 2007

Pages: Two

US DELEGATION VISIT IAF WEAVERS

ARLINGTON, Va. – Members of a US Senate delegation led by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) met with representatives of a current Inter-American Foundation (IAF) grantee, the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco (CTTC), in Peru on New Year's Eve. Reid, along with Senators Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), Ken Salazar (D-Colo.), Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) and Robert Bennett (R-Utah), saw how reviving ancient weaving techniques can generate economic development while visiting CTTC's community museum just a few blocks from Cusco's central Plaza de Armas.

CTTC, founded in 1996, is improving the well-being of indigenous weavers in nine communities in the Peruvian highlands by reviving ancient Inca designs and techniques and selling the weavings worldwide. Profits from the museum store go directly to the participating communities for social and economic

development. The IAF's grant helped CTTC secure commercial opportunities, promote appreciation of its traditional textiles and offer training and technical assistance to weavers.

CTTC's executive director and expert weaver, Nilda Callañaupa, described the project to the senators before their visit to the museum. "It was gratifying to share with Senator Reid and his colleagues CTTC's deep-rooted community involvement and the beneficial rewards we have seen through our work with the IAF," Callañaupa said.

"CTTC's success demonstrates the significant impact that the US government, working through the IAF and other foreign assistance agencies, can have in Peru and elsewhere in the world," Reid said.

On their trip, the Senators also met with Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Bolivian President Evo Morales and Ecuador's President-elect Rafael Correa.

Since its creation in 1969, the IAF has awarded more than 4,600 grants, totaling more than \$600 million, to Latin American and Caribbean grassroots and nongovernmental organizations. More information about the IAF is available on its Web site (www.iaf.gov).

###